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Statement submitted by The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Comprehensive universal social protection, access to public services such as physical and academic education, and sustainable civil and social infrastructure such as safe arts and athletic centres are necessary for the empowerment of women and girls.

Social protection is a human right. Therefore women, men, and all genders should receive equal social protection, regardless of employment and other factors. Demanding financial compensation in exchange for social protection that is often complicated, incomprehensive, and increases in quality with price widens socio-economic gaps in civil society. We see this in the state of women dancers and artists worldwide today. Lack of or subpar social protection makes it harder for women to reach their highest potential.

The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory Foundation makes the following recommendations in regards to securing social protection systems for gender equality:

Comprehensive universal social protection

- including women organizers
- with special regard to the reproductive, cultural, and social needs of women and girls
- with special regard to the nature of women's professions and lifestyles from mental rehabilitation to physical injury coverage
- free of discrimination in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, class, employment and other identifying labels
- free of charge or at a very low fee determined by respective societal minimum wages

Access to public services is necessary for women to thrive. Many women are kept in the private sphere, while men dominate the public sphere. For example, women and girls generally have less opportunity to partake in physical sport and activity. Giving women access to such public services empowers them by increasing their abilities, self-confidence, and credibility on the road to equality.

The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory Foundation makes the following recommendations in regards to securing access to public services for women's empowerment:

- Free public education
- including academic and physical education
- with high-quality physical education for girls and women
- including women teachers
- free of sexual harassment and abuse
- with additional, optional private academic and physical opportunities

Sustainable infrastructure provides women the security often lacking in the private sphere. For example, a safe, accessible athletic or arts centre dance studio may be the solace and professional accelerator for a woman or girl with an unequal home life. Creating and modifying infrastructure with women in mind will create gender-inclusive communities where women are equal.

The Hip-Hop Dance Conservatory Foundation makes the following recommendations in regards to sustainable infrastructure for women's empowerment:

Sustainable civil and social infrastructure

- including athletic and arts centres
- free of sexism, racism, and other harmful biases disempowering women and girls
- with proper safety measures in place to protect women and girls
- including women administrators
- in accessible locations with accessible transportation and hours of operation